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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text, in French and in English, of a declaration on the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Community and its member States at Luxembourg on 5 October 1992.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(Signed) Jean-Bernard P. H. P. MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of France

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on former Yugoslavia

The Community and its member States fully support the continuing efforts of Lord Owen and Mr. Vance to bring about a cessation of hostilities and a peaceful settlement. Despite these efforts, widespread violence and cruelty, the slaughter and deliberate deprivation of civilians, savage breaches of international humanitarian law and military aggression persist in many areas. The Community and its member States are pressing for urgent action in the United Nations for the implementation of agreements reached in the London Conference, including a no-fly zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and subsequent agreements such as the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula. They are actively involved in steps to secure the deployment of protected humanitarian convoys, the tightening of sanctions measures, the release of detainees and the closure of detention camps and the supervision of heavy weapons.

The increasing evidence of atrocities, including mass killings and ethnic cleansing, principally by Serbian groups, must be collected systematically and investigated. The Community and its member States support the action in hand in the United Nations to establish a mechanism for the collection of data and a commission of experts to assist the Secretary-General in the analysis of the evidence. The perpetrators of mass killings and other grave breaches of international humanitarian law will be held individually responsible for their actions and the Community and its member States will cooperate with the United Nations and the relevant bodies in ensuring that justice is done.

Another major international relief effort is urgently required to avoid an even greater human tragedy as winter approaches. The resumption of the humanitarian airlift is warmly welcomed. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross are doing invaluable work in all areas and will need even more generous support in the coming weeks in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's appeal. The Community and its member States have contributed substantially to current efforts and are making available increased resources, particularly to cover housing needs. They call upon the international community to make a commensurate response to alleviate the desperate suffering of the population and the refugees of the former Yugoslavia.